THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Proposals to include Nama Sudra community in the list of Scheduled Castes, were received from State Governments of Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.

The proposal of Government of Uttarakhand was processed in accordance with the Approved Modalities. On the basis of comments of the Registrar General of India, the Government of Uttarakhand was requested to send requisite ethnographic information which has not been received.

The proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh to include Nama Sudra Community in the list of Scheduled Castes was referred back to them, as it was found inconsistent with conclusions contained in the Report of their Institute namely Adim Jati Anusandhan Evam Parikshan Sansthan, which mentioned that untouchability is not practiced against them, whereas the criterion followed for specification of caste as a Scheduled Caste is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

Reservation in private sector

2291. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion was given in the National Common Minimum Programme towards providing reservation in the private sector;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken, if any, so far;

(c) whether Government is considering to bring in a new legislation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. A Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister was constituted in October, 2006, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Committee has been holding discussions with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations from time to time.

Housing for helpless people

†2292. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on any scheme for housing for helpless persons in every district of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.